Target of Textile Exports

925. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anticipated textile exports of $13 billion for year 2002-03, was achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the anticipated target of textile exports during 2003-04;

(d) the target achieved by the end of October, 2003; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to ensure the fulfilment of target for the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, textile exports during 2002-2003 have amounted to US $ 11.84 billion; meaning thereby that 91.1% of the annual export target of US $ 13 billion was achieved during 2002-2003. The shortfall in achievement in annual export target may be attributed to the general slowdown in the economies of some of our major trading partners like US and increase competition from countries like China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka etc.

(c) A target of US$13.5 billion has been fixed for export of textile products during the year 2003-04.

(d) As per latest available DGCI&S data, textile exports during the period April-July 2003 have amounted to US $ 3.7 billion; meaning thereby that 27.4% of the annual export target has been achieved during the first four months of the year.

(e) Government has been providing several facilities to the exporters to achieve the export target for 2003-2004. Some of the important facilities given are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to making fabric production competitive, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

Establishment of Apparel Parks in Karnataka

926. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for establishment of apparel parks at Bangalore and Bellary; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the targeted date for completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Two project proposals were received from the State Government of Karnataka for setting up Apparel Parks-one at Bangalore and the other at Bellary-under the